

PENNSYLVANIA PARKING IS STATE OF THE ART

By **Bobra Wilbanks**

Whether planning for the occasional Amish buggy or football game day overflow issues, the parking experts in Pennsylvania are up to the task. Streetscapes and garages all across the state are being designed to preserve historic character while using green, safe, inviting, and profitable features. No longer does “state of the art” have to mean futuristic, but it does need to meet current and future needs without compromising the rich heritage of Pennsylvania’s cities and institutions. The Pennsylvania Parking Association (PPA) is pleased to report a thriving membership and ongoing commitment to achieving this goal in our state.

Spring Training

The Third Annual Spring Training for the PPA enjoyed record attendance of more than 30 parking professionals. Held at the Simeon Foundation Automotive Museum in Philadelphia on April 27, educational sessions included:

- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Solutions for Proposed and Existing Parking Facilities, presented by Dale B. Witmer, AICP, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.
- Getting Them to Like You: Building an Engaged Community and Providing Better Parking Services through Social Media, presented by Evan Urbania and Matthew Ray, ChatterBlast Media.
- Mobile Apps...How do they Apply and is the Time Right for You?—Parking and the Mobile App Convergence, presented by the IPI Technology Committee: Jennifer Rentz, Complus Data Innovations, Inc., and Clarence Kemper, SKIDATA, Inc.

A networking breakfast, coffee break, and luncheon were provided. After the last session, attendees toured the Automotive Museum and its exhibits of more than 60 race cars that span time from 1909 to the present.

Annual Conference

The 12th Annual PPA Conference was held Sept. 19-21 at the Circuit Center in Pittsburgh. We kicked things off with our traditional Fender Bender Open golf outing at the Montour Heights Country Club. After a strong showing in Bethlehem last year, we expected a growing number of attendees and exhibitors this year, so the conference committee worked hard to provide our best-ever slate of speakers and content. Topics and presenters were:

- Customer Service with a Leadership Approach, presented by Roamy Valera, CAPP, Standard Parking.
- Progressive On-Street Rates Eliminate Time Limits, Enhance Customer Service, Generate Turnover, Support Economic Development, and Improve the Bottom Line, presented by Michael Klein, CAPP, Albany Parking Authority.
- International Parking Institute Progress Report and

Parking Power Toolkit, presented by Henry Wallmeyer, International Parking Institute.

- Best Practices—Processing and Citations Collection, presented by Sharon McLaughlin, T2 Systems.
- Parking Garages are for Parking Cars!, presented by Bill Kavanaugh, The Harman Group.
- Parking Reservation Systems—A Pathway to Increased Parking Revenue and Customer Loyalty, presented by Roger Slayton, CTR Systems.
- Banquet Keynote Address: The History of Kennywood Park, and How They Handle Parking Today, presented by Jeff Filicko, Kennywood Park.



The Circuit Center and nearby Springhill Suites hotel were brimming with a record turnout of 120 parking professionals from Pennsylvania cities, towns, colleges and universities, hospitals, and airports, including our largest-ever contingent of exhibitors. Early registrants enjoyed a night of Pirates baseball at PNC Park after the opening reception as part of their attendee package.

As always, in conjunction with the annual conference, PPA hosts a formal awards program to recognize outstanding parking-related projects in our industry. Members and non-members are invited every year to submit the best of their parking projects and programs for consideration. Categories include new parking structure, restoration, and parking equipment technology. At the Annual Conference banquet, a presentation program highlights the best attributes of each project.

This year, a record number of entries were processed. Board members voted on only those entries in which



| Category | Award Entry |
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| New Design Under 1,000 Spaces | (Excellence Award) Queen Street Station Mixed-Use Parking Garage (395 spaces), Tim Haahs & Assoc., Inc. Church Street Transportation Center (350 spaces), CTR Systems |
| New Design Over 1,000 Spaces | (Excellence Award) "The Wave" Mixed-Use Parking Structure (1,180 spaces), Tim Haahs & Assoc., Inc. Miami Marlins Ballpark Parking Garages (6,000 spaces), Tim Haahs & Assoc., Inc. Reven Resort Parking Garage (7,739 spaces), Walker Parking |
| Restoration | (Excellence Award) 12 th and Walnut Street Parking Garage Deck Repairs, Quinn Construction 1085 Morris Avenue Parking Garage, Wardle Engineering |
| Addition/Improvements | (Excellence Award) Lighting Replacement, Lancaster Parking Authority Upgrade/Replacement of Parking and Revenue Control System for Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority at Harrisburg International Airport, R. N. Best |
| Parking Technology/Equipment | (Excellence Award) Revel Resort Parking Garage, Walker Parking Gateway One, Gateway Three, and the Mulberry Lot, CTR Systems The Barnes Museum, Time & Parking Controls Geisinger Medical Center, Time & Parking Controls (Innovation Award) Lower Merion Township Parking Meter System, POM Inc. |
| Operations | (Excellence Award) Vulcan Parking Garage, California Univ. of PA Lancaster Parking Authority Rooftop Events Program (Innovation Award) Lancaster Parking Authority Bike Patrols |



they were not involved, rating each for uniqueness, functionality, aesthetics, new application/innovation, and presentation. Entries and winners are listed above.

The New Board

Board nominations and elections were held over the summer in keeping with the PPA bylaws. The following slate of officers, including new board member Charles DeBow, were announced at the annual conference banquet:

- Rachel Yoka (IPI's 2012 Parking Professional of the Year), Timothy Haahs & Associates, Inc., president
- Jamie Sweigart, High Concrete Group, treasurer
- Bobra Wilbanks, POM Parking Meters, secretary
- Mark Vergenes, Lancaster Parking Authority
- Charles DeBow, Borough of State College
- Frank Pope, Penn State University
- Ray Massing, Erie Parking Authority
- Christopher Christian, Lehigh University
- Mike Hacke, Walker Parking Consultants

Membership

The Pennsylvania Parking Association strives to bring parking to the highest level of socioeconomic benefit to our cities, parking authorities, campuses, airports, and hospitals, as well as their patrons. PPA welcomes and encourages the Pennsylvania parking community to join us, with regular membership at only \$75 (\$25 for associates; \$125 for vendors and consultants). We work to strengthen our network of parking professionals, share ideas and experience, and discuss best practices, case studies, technology, financial and legal issues, sustainability, safety, and green initiatives. Members enjoy reduced rates at all PPA events; networking and educational opportunities at Spring Training and the Annual Conference; informative newsletters and updates throughout the year; and a PPA membership meeting at IPI. For more information or to join PPA, go to paparking.org. We also invite you to join us on LinkedIn and Facebook.



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